



CEQA MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

CITY OF EUREKA

SCH #: 2004082028

PROJECT TITLE: Palco Marsh Enhancement Plan – Phase 1A Work Plan

PROJECT APPLICANT: City of Eureka

PROJECT LOCATION: Palco Marsh – bounded by Del Norte Street, Felt Street, Broadway, Vigo Street and Humboldt Bay, APN's 007-031-02, -03, -04; 007-041-03; 007-051-02, -06.

ZONING & GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION: Zoning - Natural Resources and Coastal Dependent Industrial; General Plan – Natural Resources and Coastal Dependent Industrial

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Palco Marsh Phase 1A Work Plan includes tasks from the Palco Marsh Enhancement Plan that either were not completed as part of the Phase 1 Work Plan, are tasks from the Phase 1 final monitoring report, or are new enhancement tasks. All project components are proposed for the further enhancement of Palco Marsh pursuant to the approved Palco Marsh Enhancement Plan. The project includes the installation of a 48-in culvert to replace an existing 24-in. culvert connecting Palco Marsh with Humboldt Bay; aesthetic modification of the Del Norte Street drainage structure, removal of silt from the structure and replacement and/or removal of existing tide gates; hand digging and cleaning of Palco Marsh channels; dredging of the tidal slough between Palco Marsh and the peninsula west of the marsh; installation of Del Norte and Felt Streets landscaping; installation of interpretive signage; eradication of common reed and other invasive exotics; revegetation of treated common reed areas; and the hydrologic enhancement of Railroad Marsh. The plan also includes monitoring, maintenance and management activities including botanical and hydrologic monitoring; monitoring and treatment of exotics; monitoring and removal of sediment from marsh channels and the tidal channel; repair, maintenance or replacement of existing drainage structures; and monitoring and clean-up of garbage. See the Palco Marsh Phase 1A Work Plan for a detailed project description.

The City of Eureka adopted a 1988 Mitigated Negative Declaration for Phase 1 of the Palco Marsh Enhancement Plan (SCH# 88092022) and a subsequent 1991 Mitigated Negative Declaration for Phase II of the plan, which included the Phase II revisions (SCH# 91093076). Both documents found that the project would have beneficial and insignificant impacts. The addition of project components (installation of 48-in. culvert and dredging of tidal slough), changes in the approach to exotics removal, and changed environmental circumstances for Phase 1A necessitated additional environmental review, which resulted in the Mitigated Negative Declaration before the Council for adoption.

LEAD AGENCY/CONTACT: City of Eureka, Community Development Department; Lisa D. Shikany, Environmental Planner; 531 K Street, Eureka, CA 95501-1165; phone: (707) 268-5265; fax: (707) 441-4202; e-mail: lshikany@ci.eureka.ca.gov

FINDINGS: On September 7, 2004 the City Council found that:

1. A mitigated negative declaration was prepared and circulated pursuant to CEQA.
2. The mitigated negative declaration together with any comments received during the public review process was considered by the City Council.
3. On the basis of the whole record before it, including the initial study and any comments received, that there was no substantial evidence that the project would have a significant effect on the environment, and that the mitigated negative declaration reflected the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis.
4. Mitigation measures as recommended in the initial study were made a condition of project approval, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, for reporting on or monitoring the changes which the Council required in the project or made a condition of approval to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects, was prepared and adopted.
5. The project is within two nautical miles of a public airport or public use airport and will not result in a safety hazard or noise problem for persons using the airport or for persons residing or working in the project area.
6. Documents or other materials that constitute the record of proceedings upon which the City Council's decision was based, are located in and in the custody of the City of Eureka Engineering Department and the City of Eureka Community Development Department, Eureka City Hall, 531 "K" Street in Eureka, California.

The material supporting the above findings is contained in the Initial Study prepared by the City of Eureka's Community Development Department. Copies of the documents related to the evaluation of this project are available for review to the general public at the Community Development Department, address above.



Lisa D. Shikany
Environmental Planner



Date